

11/11/2011

MEMORANDUM

by: 6-G, 26 July 1961.

SUBJECT: Information Received from a Recent Returnee from Soviet Estonia.

1. A good friend of mine, an intelligent and reliable Estonian in Sweden, wrote me about the talk he had with Mr. Mihkel MARTSOO/ later: Source/ who arrived on 1-st July from Soviet Estonia, via Leningrad and Helsinki, to Uppsala, Sweden, where his family is living since 1944.

2. My friend, who is a physician, finds that the Source who is 59, is in "excellent shape physically as well as mentally, this is exceptional". The Source was "Major, and Commander of the Training Company /Regimental non-coms' school/, Regiment of (armored) Cars and Tanks of the Estonian Army.

3. The Source about himself: He was Commander, 1-st Battalion, 6-th Regiment of Border Defence in Estonia when the Germans retreated from Estonia in 1944. The Source remained behind, in woods near AVINURME. Later he was hiding in VAENDRA, up to the spring of 1946 when he was arrested in TALLINN. He was sentenced to 10 years of forced labor, and he was sent to Siberia. Since 1956 he was back in Estonia, in TORI JOESUU, which now is in the boundaries of the SADE sovkhoz, VAENDRA Rayon. His position there was this of a "temporary worker". He lived in the household of his mother who was a regular worker in the kolkhoz and who had an individual household. This was the best situation the Source could wish for: he had no obligations and could work just according to his likings. Were he a regular worker, he could not have been able to behave like this. The attitude of the people towards the "temporary worker" was always very polite. Even the newly appointed director of the sovkhoz found it necessary to visit him, bringing drinks along, although the "worker" had not showed himself to the director before.

4. The Source about other former Estonian Officers:

a) General TOMBERG. When on forced labor in Siberia, the Source was together with General Tomberg, who had been sentenced to 25 years. Tomberg had been a lecturer at the Frunze Academy up to February 1944. He had been together with the Academy to Tashkent and to Alma-Ata, and later back again in Moscow. In Moscow Tomberg had noticed in the street the British Air-Attache, Vice-Marshal of Airforce COLLIER, and approached him. Tomberg knew Collier from the time when the latter was instructing Estonian fliers during the Estonian War of Independence /about 1919/. The same evening Tomberg was arrested. Abakumov personally interrogated him. The interrogations went on for 8 years. In 1952 Tomberg was sent from the prison in Moscow to Siberia. Even at this time Tomberg had traces of beating on his body. In Siberia Tomberg had to do common work until he was freed, in 1956. About the Frunze Academy Tomberg had told to the Source that the Estonians -

b) General JONSON, General KRUUS, and Colonel TUIISK were there in quality

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of students. One day Jonson did not appear for lectures. A few days later the maintenance officer asked for the map-case of Jonson, reasoning that "he would not come back any more". All other /Estonian officers/ disappeared the same way, one at a time.

c) Captain ROOTS /Harald/ who also was sent to the Academy, is back in Estonia. /His brother is living in Uppsala, Sweden, was added by my friend./

d) Of the officers who were arrested in 1941 in PETSERI, some are now back in Estonia, and the Source has spoken with some of them: DOERING /Lt-Col., Airforce/, Captains Ants TEKKEL and STAMM from the Regiment of (armored) Cars and Tanks. Captain JOOST from Signal Battalion. Major MOELDRE from Pioneer Battalion. Captain Stamm was a total invalid and his life in Tallinn by suicide.

These officers had been disarmed in Petsery one by one and then deported to NARYLSK /prob. NORILSK/, where they lived in very bad conditions, working in woods and building the camp. Many died. In the beginning /of the stay there/ many were picked out one by one and disappeared for ever. The Source remembers having heard that the Colonels REMMEL and KARING died there.

After Stalin's death and liquidation of Beria the remaining officers were told that they were the victims of a mean gang. They were granted amnesty, given back their military grades and seniority, and even financial remuneration, Doering received 30,000 rouble. They were allowed to return to Estonia. They are registered as retired officers, and receive pension. Captain Tekkel receives 900 ruble per month, whereas Major PARISALU, who went through all the war together with the Red Army, is receiving only 500 Rbl /To the question why such a difference, the Source had no other answer as: "See, this is Russia", in the sence: who knows./

e) Dr. PALU, SIKKA, and TOENSO, all three retired colonels, hold their gatherings every Wednesday and Saturday at 11 a.m. in the cafeteria "Tallinn", former "Harju", in Tallinn.

5. The Source about the Political Situation in Estonia.

a) During 1945 and 1946 /sic/ the American radio from Munich caused much trouble and danger to the people. The nation got hopes and acted accordingly, and as a result, suffered later badly when revenge was taken on those who hid in woods.

b) During the Hungarian revolt Russia was a full brothel, and the Americans remained just onlookers. Since then "the Americans have lost all their prestige in our eyes." Now the hopes are developing in direction of the Germans because they are fellow-sufferers.

c) The life in Estonia is drab. In Soviet Union they speak that the sales of books and of vodka are the biggest in Estonia.

f) There is a big difference between the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Estonia and those in Russia. The Estonians have always tried to accept the

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situation as it is, and to accommodate themselves as well as possible. Even the directors follow this line and "don't see" many things. The old die-hard party members are being taken off the leading positions and replaced through oldtimers, the people who have graduated from the old agricultural schools or had been for practice to Denmark or Germany, because it is more important to have the production plans fulfilled than to make noise. Of course, the new leaders, also, must have their party cards.

g) In past years it was the usage that the prisoners, before they were sent from the "Patarei" / a renown prison in Tallinn/ to Siberia, could read their indictments and, thus, learned who denounced them. Now many people are back /from Siberia/ and the denouncers have been "switched off", - the Source knows one former chairman of a kolkhoz who is now a stable cleaner in a sovkhоз. Those people are being treated by others like being leprosy.

h) There is a shortage of farm workers, officially at least. Attempts have been made to bring in Russian workers. However, those don't stay for longer than one year because everybody despises them, nobody speaks with them. There are rumors that bigger parties of Russians will be brought in. However, despite those periodically appearing rumors, it has remained by the singles.

i) In the earlier years people went with pleasure for seasonal work to Russia because the wages in the virgin lands were higher than the normal ones, and the certificates received for such work were most useful. For instance: a brother of Major SIMMO /immigrated to, and later died in USA/ has been there with his detail on construction work. They went in May and were back for Xmas. The remaining time they lived an easy life. But now people are forced to settle there, and therefore, nobody is going.

j) About the Berlin crisis the Source has heard nothing what had interfered with the life.

6. COMMENTS by 6-G:

a) My friend was scarce with his comments, except this about the excellent health of the Source, and the latter's status of "temporary worker" which was given in quotation marks, like here.

b) I knew the Source. He was an average career officer in the Estonian Army.

c) The story about hiding in woods and deportation to Siberia after he was caught, looks believable.

d) His position of a "temporary worker" in the sovkhоз might also be believable.

e) The visit of the director of the sovkhоз to the Source looks unusual, or the director must have known about the Source something special, perhaps about the conditions under which the Source was allowed to join his family in Sweden.

f) It is most probable that the Source "was allowed" to join his family under some very special conditions, for instance that he would go back to Estonia after "having learned how distasteful is the life in Sweden".

- g) The information concerning General TÖMBERG is slightly different of what I have heard and reported earlier.
- h) Captain Harald ROOTS, an eager, young Captain, G.S. was reported "reddish" soon after the communist take-over in Estonia in 1940. He attended the Estonian War College together with me. Nobody else of the officers who were sent by the Soviets to the "Academies" has been reported back in Estonia, sofar as I know.
- i) The story about the fate of the officers arrested in Petseri seems to be believable.
- j) The information about the political situation in Estonia looks being slanted and partly incorrect. As to my knowledge there were no American broadcasts from Munich to Estonia in 1945 and 1946.

CONCLUSIONS by 6-G:

- a) Although there is no clear proof that the Source was sent to Sweden on certain purpose, or that he is a communist agent, his case is most suspicious because he is the first able-bodied man allowed by the communists to leave Soviet Estonia for joining his family abroad.
Therefore, special precaution would be on right place if our workers would be /or are/ working on him.
- b) This information, given by the Source to a friendly compatriot, could be used for checking the Source's other reports for accuracy, if there is any interest in his reports.

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